



WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending April 25, 2010

Seasonal Temperatures, Scattered Rainfall

Weather Summary: Temperatures were near normal for the week ending April 25, 2010. Minimum temperatures ranged between the upper 40s and the lower 60s. Highs were mostly in the upper 80s. Severe weather was reported in some locations on Sunday as a cold front moved across the State. Rainfall was generally light to moderate in the Panhandle, the northern counties, and south Florida. Areas in central Florida received substantial rainfall with Hillsborough, Lake, and Orange counties reporting three to five inches. Eighty-five percent of the soil moisture levels were adequate to surplus.

Soil Moisture Ratings

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	Previous week	Previous year	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	5	35	1	0	29	1
Short	15	45	13	15	39	14
Adequate	75	18	76	75	30	72
Surplus	5	2	10	10	2	13

Field Crops: Dry conditions in the Panhandle and northern counties allowed field preparations to proceed, but peanut and cotton planting was delayed in non-irrigated fields. In Washington County, ryegrass was baled for hay. Potatoes in the Hastings area were progressing well; some harvesting may begin as early as next week. In Palm Beach County, rice planting was slowed by rain. Sugarcane harvest ended and the last mill closed over the weekend.

Vegetables: Cabbage and greens harvest in the Hastings area was near completion. Tomatoes were being staked in Gadsden County. Harvesting of tomatoes, cucumbers, and herbs were active in Highlands County. Watermelons were reported as doing very well. In south Florida, vegetable volume was increasing but remained at levels well below normal. In Collier County, the first watermelons of the season will be harvested this week. Snap beans, cabbage, cantaloupe, celery, sweet corn, cucumber, eggplant, endive, escarole, pepper, radish, squash, strawberry, and tomato moved through the market last week.

Livestock and Pastures: Statewide, pasture condition was mostly fair due to drought, nighttime cold, and local flooding. Pasture in the Panhandle area was poor to good, most poor condition was due to a hard winter, drought, and cooler weather. Clover, small grain forage, and ryegrass pastures declined significantly due to drought. In the northern areas, pasture condition was mostly fair to good. Cool season forages, stressed by drought were grazed out. Permanent pastures were stressed from dry conditions. Hay feeding has resumed. Cattle condition was fair to good. In the central areas, the pasture condition was mostly fair. Forage was growing well although night temperatures were still holding back growth. Some pasture was limited by drought while others had surplus soil moisture. The cattle condition was mostly in fair to good condition. In the southwestern areas, the pasture condition was very poor to excellent with most fair to good. Pastures looked green and healthy in most locations. Most locations received significant rain with some ponding in low areas. Pasture condition continued to improve with warmer temperatures and much welcomed rain in the middle of the week. Statewide, the condition of the cattle was very poor to excellent with most fair to good.

Cattle and Pasture Condition

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	Previous week	Current week	Previous week	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very poor.....	1	1	2	2
Poor	15	14	20	17
Fair.....	45	45	50	50
Good	37	35	27	30
Excellent	2	5	1	1

Citrus: Highs this week were in the upper 80s to lower 90s, with early morning lows ranging from the upper 40s to the lower 60s. Rainfall was highly variable this week. Dover received the most with 4.10 inches, while Palmdale and North Port both recorded no rainfall. Most stations recorded less than an inch of rain. Growing conditions continue to be good across the citrus region. Most packinghouses remained open. Varieties being packed included Valencia, white and colored grapefruit, and Honey tangerines. Fifteen processors were open and accepting fruit. Valencia oranges and grapefruit comprised the majority of fruit going to the plants. Grove activity included harvesting, young tree care, psyllid treatment, hedging and topping, brush removal, and fertilizer application.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

[In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes]

Crop	April 11, 2010	April 18, 2010	April 25, 2010
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and mid oranges.....	2	0	0
Temples	15	9	0
Valencia	4,867	5,229	5,958
Navel oranges	1	2	2
Grapefruit.....	704	359	351
Honey tangerines	102	99	85

This report is available, at no cost, on the NASS web site: http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Florida/Subscribe_to_FL_Reports/index.asp. To set-up this free subscription, select Florida Crop-Weather; enter your name and your email address, click on Subscribe. This report will be sent automatically each week; or call us at 800/344-6277 and we will enter the subscription for you. The precipitation and temperature data used in this report originates from the Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN). Data for individual reporting stations is available at: <http://fawn.ifas.ufl.edu> maintained by UF/IFAS Information Technologies.